

**REMARKS**

This is in full and timely response to the Final Action dated September 22, 2005. A Notice of Appeal was timely filed on February 22, 2006. This paper accompanies an RCE that is timely filed with a Petition to Extend the Time for Response to Within the Fourth Month. Thus, this RCE is timely.

**Rejection of Claims 16 to 20 under 35 USC 103**

The claims submitted are those at Final Action. In that paper, the examiner had rejected claims 16 to 20 as unpatentable over Richmond '170 in view of Nixon '784 and further in view of Bologovsky et al. The examiner had taken Official Notice that it is well known to employ thermo-welding as a bonding means; a citation to that effect is respectfully requested.

It is noted that there are no findings of fact on which to base a motivation or impetus to combine the teachings of the references, even if the Richmond device were available as a reference. To the extent, for example, that Nixon does a pair of mating board portions, there is no teaching that it was intended in Nixon to provide a body board with an outer plastic shell as alleged which prevents absorption of blood. Furthermore, the sealing alleged to be found in Bologovsky is not directed to a combination having features as alleged; indeed Bologovsky is not directed to sealing to reduce a likelihood that the interior of the board will become a source of infection. In that respect, therefore, motivation to combine for these stated purposes is found in the Applicant's disclosure as a template for a hindsight reconstruction based on the three references applied.

**Applicant's Declaration under 37 C.F. R. 1.131**

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The examiner had held that the declaration was insufficient for the reasons noted on pages 4 and 5 of the Final Action, while at the same time asking for another copy of Exhibits A and B. To the extent that the file of the undersigned does not contain Exhibits apparently marked as Exhibits A and B as referred to therein. To resolve any question on that point, the following papers are presented from the file of the undersigned and correlated with the declaration of the Applicant.

1. Exhibit C to this submission consists of four pages of drawings made from a large drawing in the possession of the undersigned. It is believed that this drawing constituted Exhibit A to the Declaration. The undersigned confirms that it bears a date earlier than Richmond's effective filing date, assuming that it is entitled to its provisional filing date, and bears the legend "Revised Tail" having a date earlier than Richmond's effective filing date. The original drawing is available for an interview with the examiner to satisfy him that the dates contained thereon are indeed earlier than Richmond's effective filing date.

2. Exhibit D to this submission is believed to be the "written description" contained in Exhibit B to the Rule 131 Declaration. It has appended thereto drawings that accompanied that writeup, among which were the downwardly directed tail section. It is noted that at least several of those drawings, apparently provided to prepare the provisional application bear a date of April 29, 2002, a date that is earlier than the effective filing date of the Richmond citation. Exhibit D is a writeup from the Applicant of the main points to be considered for inclusion in the provisional application filed in July, 2002 on behalf of the Applicant. A date on the second page of the writeup is earlier than the effective filing date of the Richmond citation. It may be noted that the comment that the design would be available in the fall of 2000 is inaccurate to the extent that the design was developed to what is shown in the provisional application.

Richmond's Provisional Disclosure

A copy of the provisional application for the Richmond citation is provided. It is clear that Richmond relates to a stretcher, not a spineboard as claimed and does not contemplate or suggest the pathogen resistant feature of the Applicant's invention. To the extent that Richmond is entitled to rely on its provisional filing date, the Applicant needs only show so much of the Richmond case as is shown in its provisional case to antedate the disclosure completely. Richmond's provisional disclosure is thus antedated by the Applicant's activities.

To the extent that the undersigned reviewed files kept in the ordinary course of business to provide this response on documents supporting the declaration, the information submitted herein is true and accurate to the extent so stated, or is believed to be true and accurate to the best of the information of the undersigned.

These documents are believed to respond favorably to the points raised by the examiner who apparently did not have either Exhibit A or B before him in the file when criticizing the declaration.

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement accompanies this submission to present documents cited in the corresponding EP application and a copy of the action in that case for consideration by the Examiner.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Dated: August 22, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald P. Kananen  
Registration No.: 24,104  
RADEK, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC  
1233 20th Street, N.W.  
Suite 501  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 955-3750  
Attorney for Applicant

Attachment:  
APPENDIXES (C), (D), and (E)

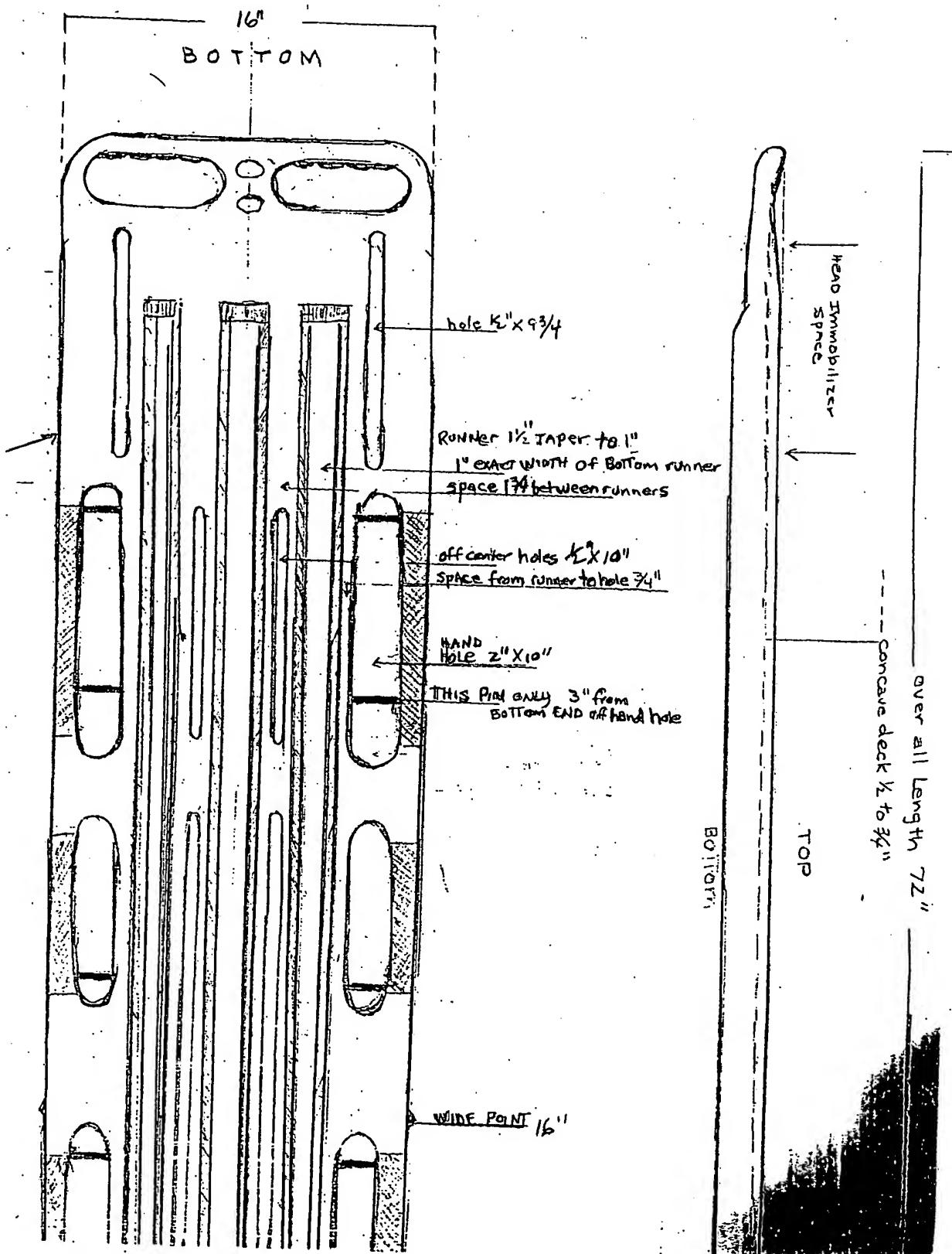
Application No.: 10/616,978

Docket No.: PAN-0010

## **APPENDIX C**

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George Stanton Jr.

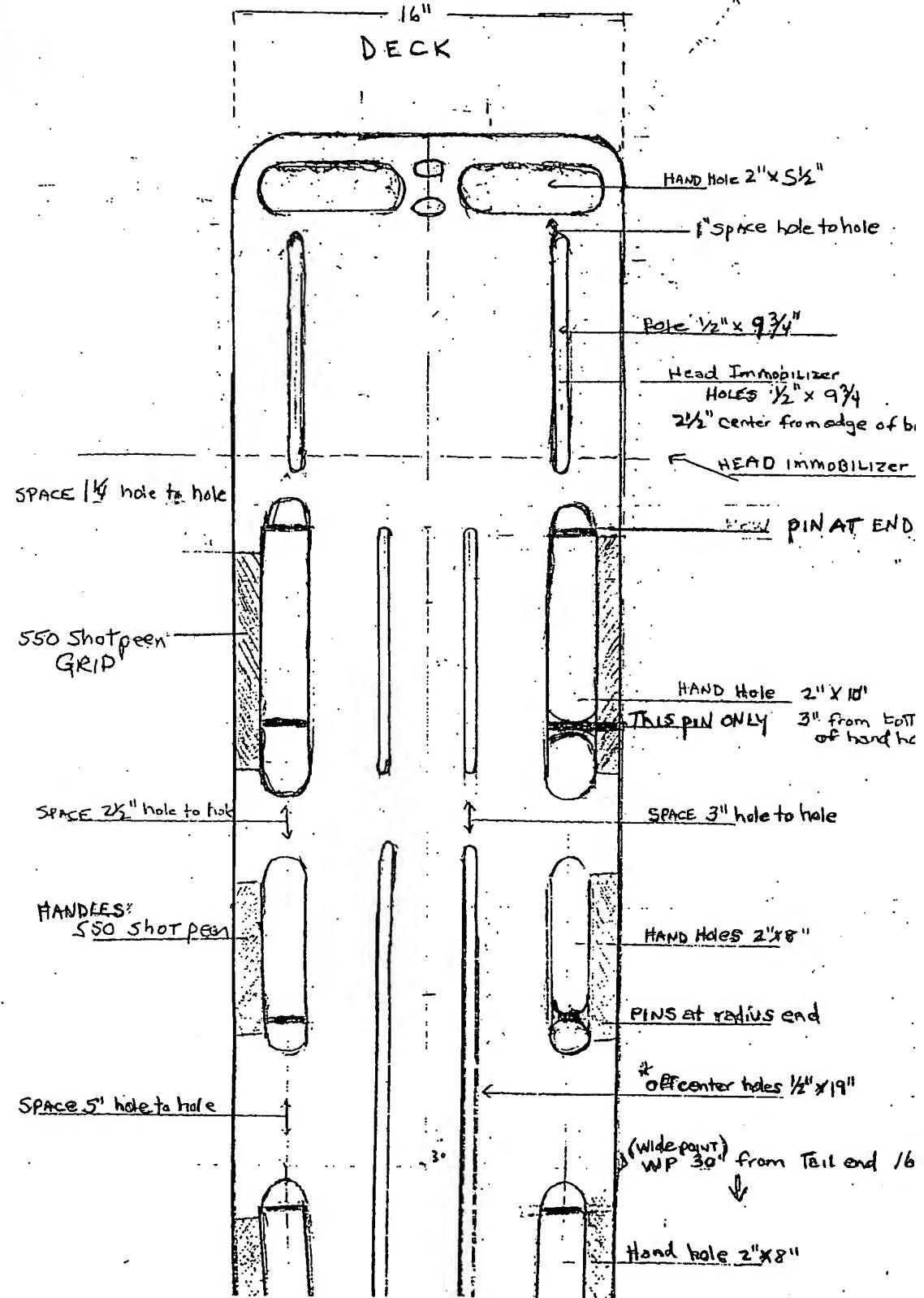


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SCALE:  $\frac{1}{2}$  cm = 1"  
1 cm = 2"

DRAWINGS BY GEORGE S. PANTON JR.



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JEES  
550 shot pegs

HAND Holes 2" x 8"

Space 5" hole to hole

PINS at radius end

\* off center holes  $\frac{1}{2}'' \times 19''$

(wide point)  
WP 3.0 from Tail end 16" wide

Hand hole 2" x 8"

Space 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " hole to hole

Hole  $\frac{1}{2}'' \times 10''$  same as upper top set

Hand hole 2" x 8"

Space 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " hole to hole

MAX™

HAND Holes 2" x 6" 2" apart

2" radius

Space to TAIL  
 $1\frac{1}{4}$ "

TAIL WIDTH  $1\frac{1}{2}$ "  
center radius

DECK

6  
 $2\frac{1}{2}$   
 $1\frac{1}{2}$   
 $1\frac{1}{4}$

Original  
DRAWING BY GEORGE S. PANTON JR.

REVISED TAIL  
PLAN

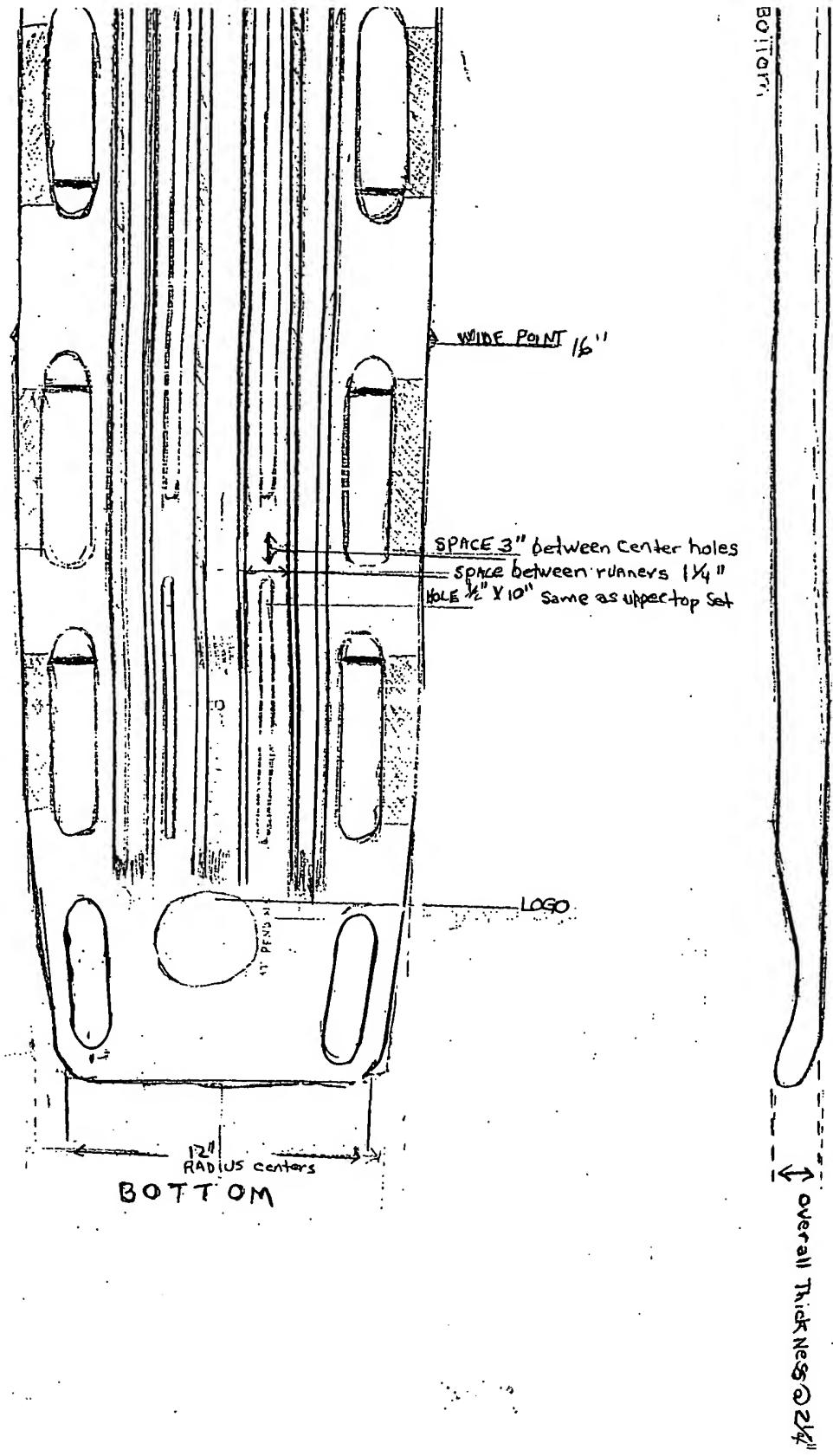
GP

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"H 72"

TOP

BOTTOM



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## **APPENDIX D**

EXTREME RESPONSE  
PO. BOX 372520  
SATELLITE BEACH, FLA  
32937

PHYSICAL ADDRESS  
128 TOMAHAWK DR. SUITE C  
INDIAN HARBOR BCH., FLA  
32937

## MAXx

MAXx is a rescue backboard used for immobilization of injured persons resulting from accidents, spinal in nature. The MAXx backboard is designed with many emergency issues relating to Aquatic, EMS, or firefighters situations minimizing the rescue time at the "scene".

### MAXx Design FEATURES Are:

1. The MOST X-rayable backboard with no metal parts or pieces
2. VACUUM formed of Thermal plastic being ultra strong and capable of heavy weight capacities
3. Urethane foam filled ... eliminates air SPACES
4. Blood born pathogen resistant - ~~is~~ impervious structure with sealed edges
5. Molded in Speed clip pins
6. Shot pinned hand holes for superior grip
7. Adjustable head immobilizer - can be pediatric or adult
8. Tipped down tail for quicker extrication of auto accident patients
9. Bottom runners for aquatic rescues and/or ground stabilization
10. Light weight

## Introducing the "MAXx" Backboard - Patent Details and Description

Protocol, ease of use/buoyancy in the water, bloodbourne pathogen procedures, EMS specifications, and technological advances have been the design paramaters leading to the backboard of the future-- "MAXx"

Designed by George Panton, "MAXx" features a revolutionary adjustable "snap-set" head immobilizing system.

Stability, positive buoyancy, rigidity, sterility, density, and strength have all been addressed to maximize the performance of "MAXx" within the EMS and the aquatic market.

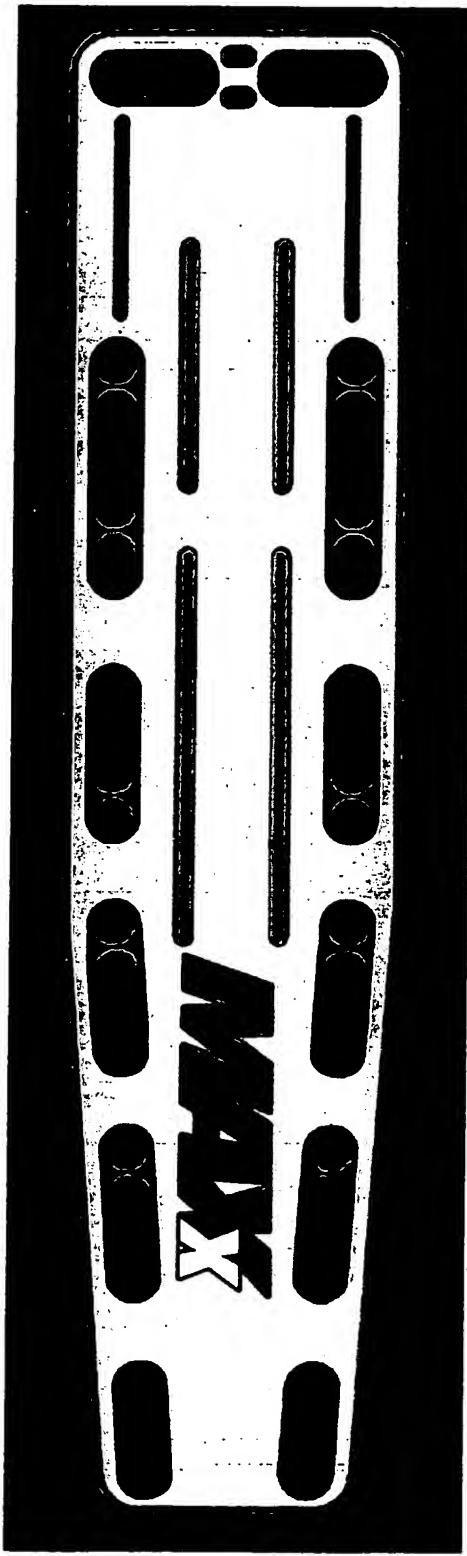
This patent-pending design will be available in the Fall of 2000. This product is a "purpose" built backboard that is unique among any previous designs.

Not for  
display

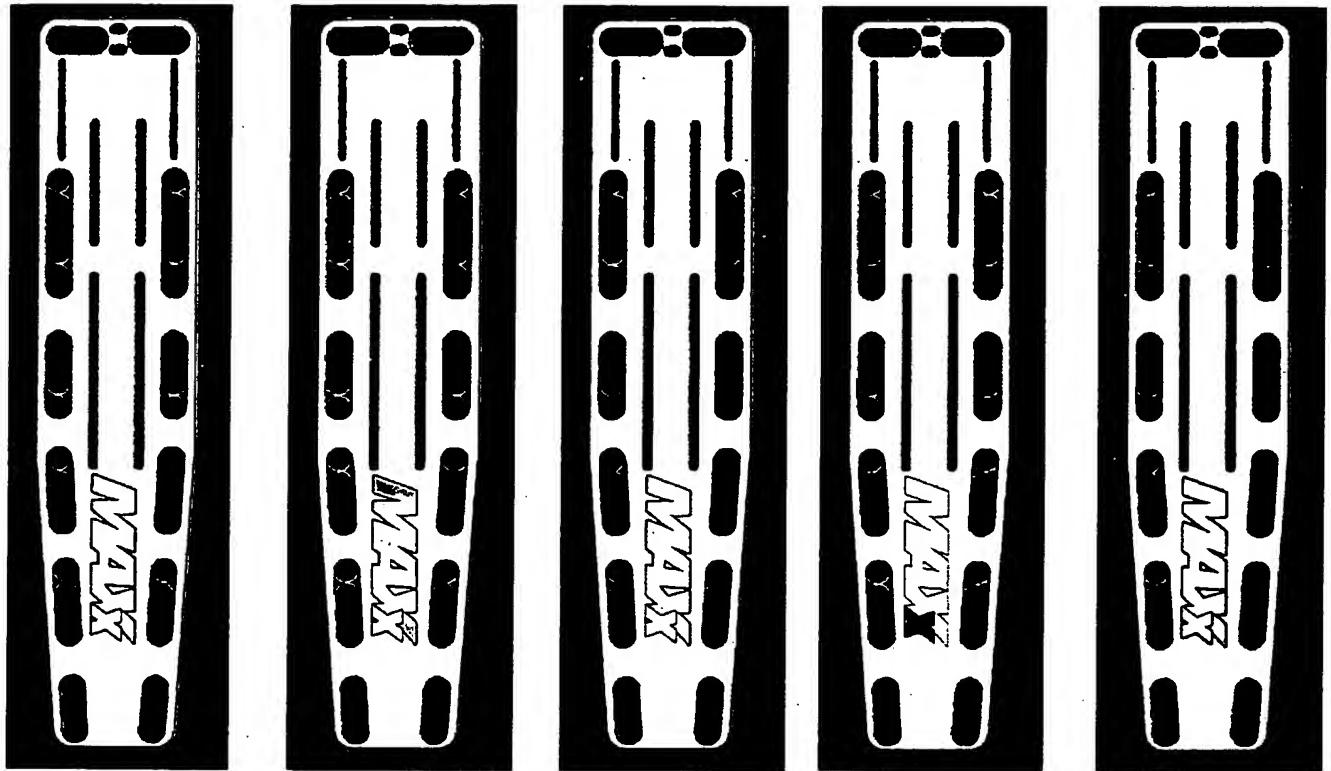
### Features:

- Lightweight polyethylene/poly urethane foam core ~~or ABS~~
- X-ray translucent
- Integrated design will accommodate snap-in Head Immobilizers
- Maximum human weight limit consistent with strap length maximums
- Larger handholds for greater vertical strap adjustment and safety glove clearance
- Unique dropped tail design allows easier board placement/extrication out of pools, tight spots (i.e. car seats, etc).
- Unique ~~Y~~ shaped tail handles allow easy grasp when flat to the ground or on pool edge
- Side handles are "shot pinned" to facilitate wet (aquatic) rescues
- Deck cradle is smooth for additional comfort
- Fiberglass speed pins
- Private label capability
- International Orange in color

Submitted by George Panton Jr.



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Main Menu:

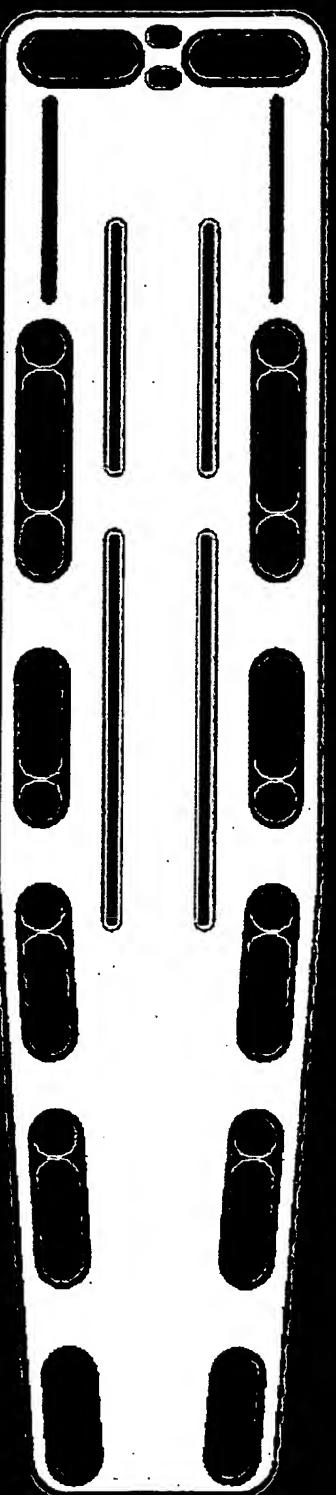
- Analyze
- Create
- Elite
- Modify
- Xform
- Delete
- Screen
- Toolpaths
- NC utils
- Exit

BACKUP

MAIN MENU

PM:

- Z: 4.4918
- Color: 13
- Level: 9
- Style/Width
- Mask: OFF
- Tplane: OFF
- Cplane: T
- Gview: T



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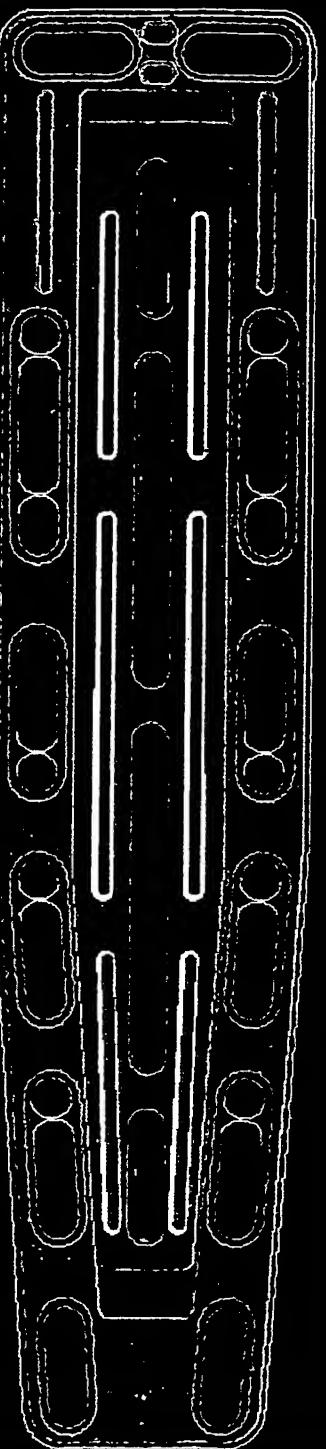


Main Menu:

Analyze  
Create  
File  
Modify  
Xform  
Delete  
Screen  
Toolpaths  
NCutils  
Exit

BACKUP  
MAIN MENU  
PM.

Z: 4.4910  
Color: ■ (b)  
Level: 9  
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Tplane: OFF  
Cplane: 3D  
Gview: M

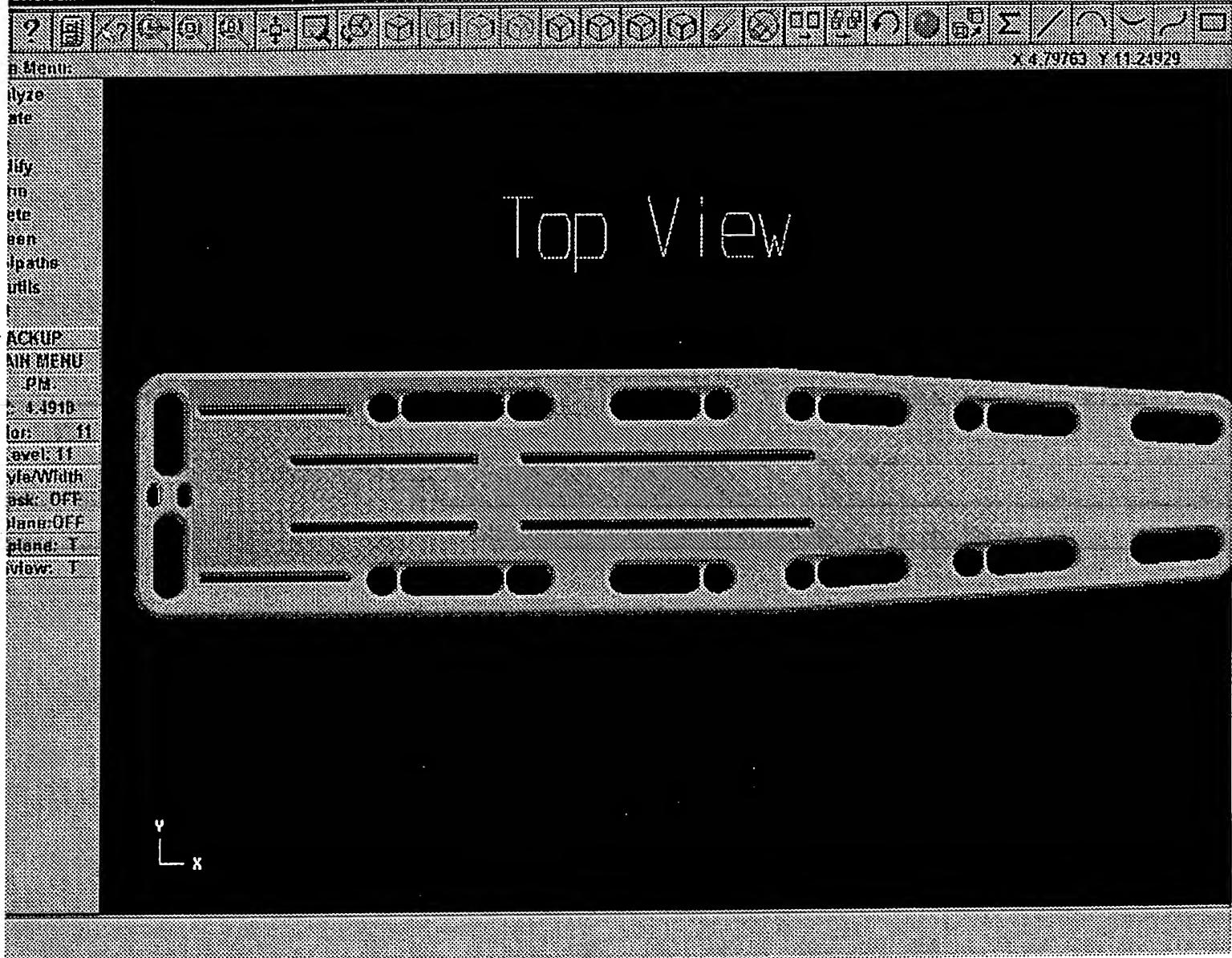


↑ X  
↓ Y

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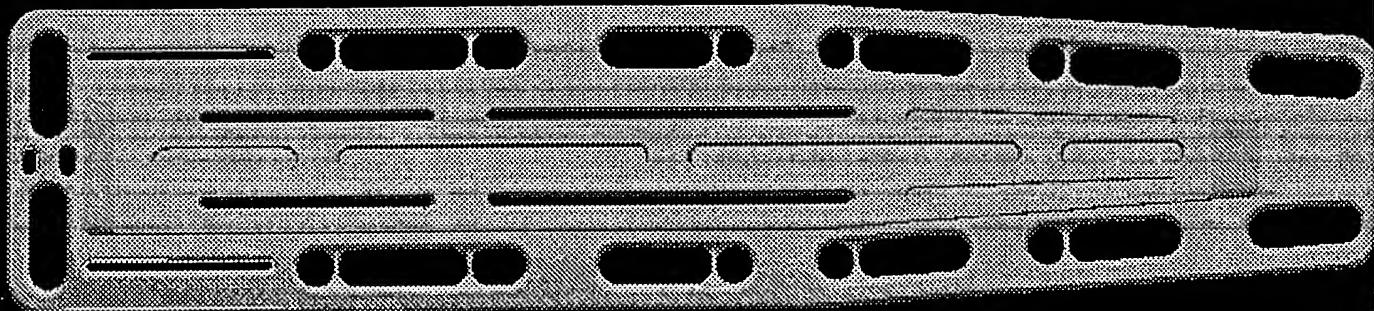


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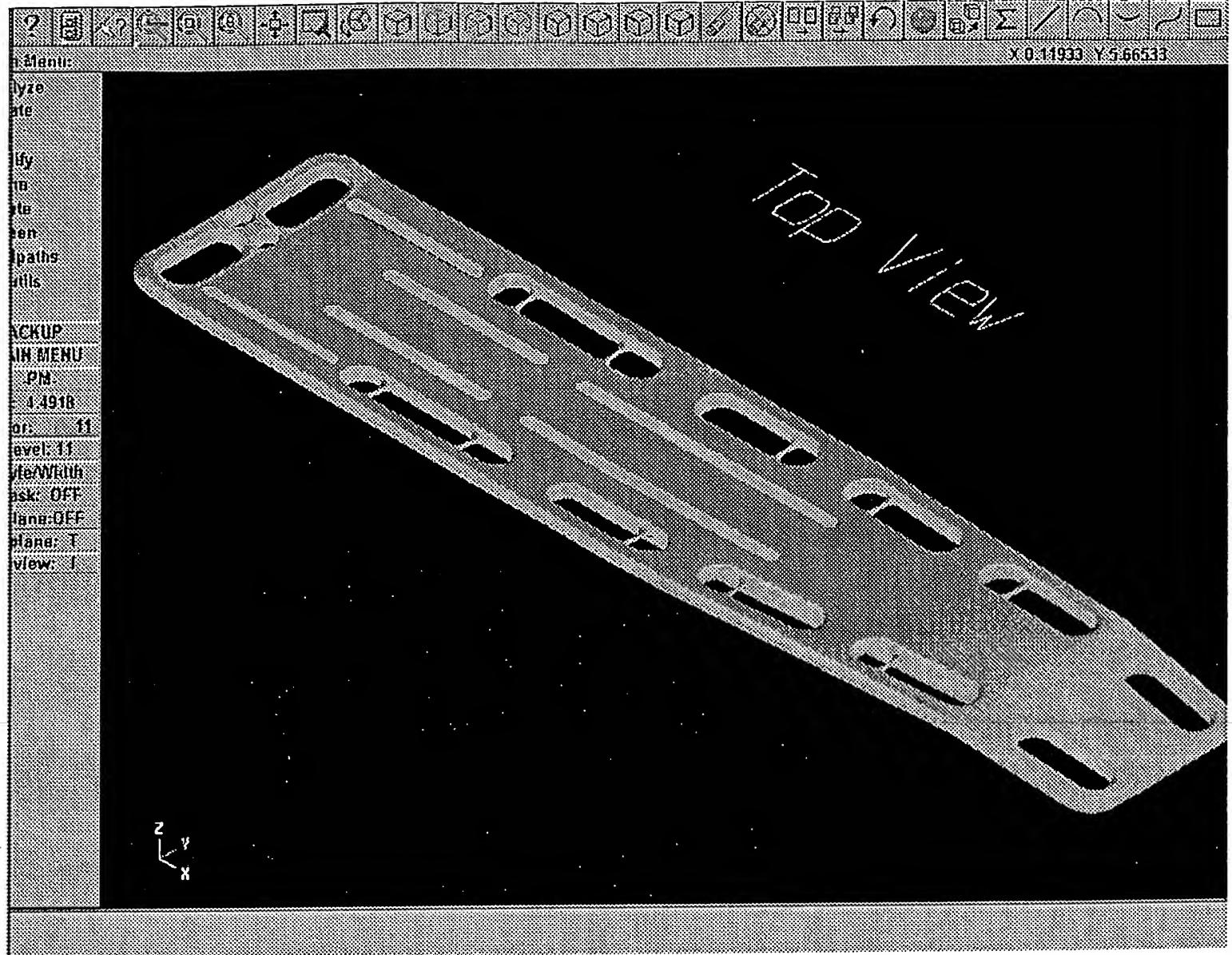


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Bottom View



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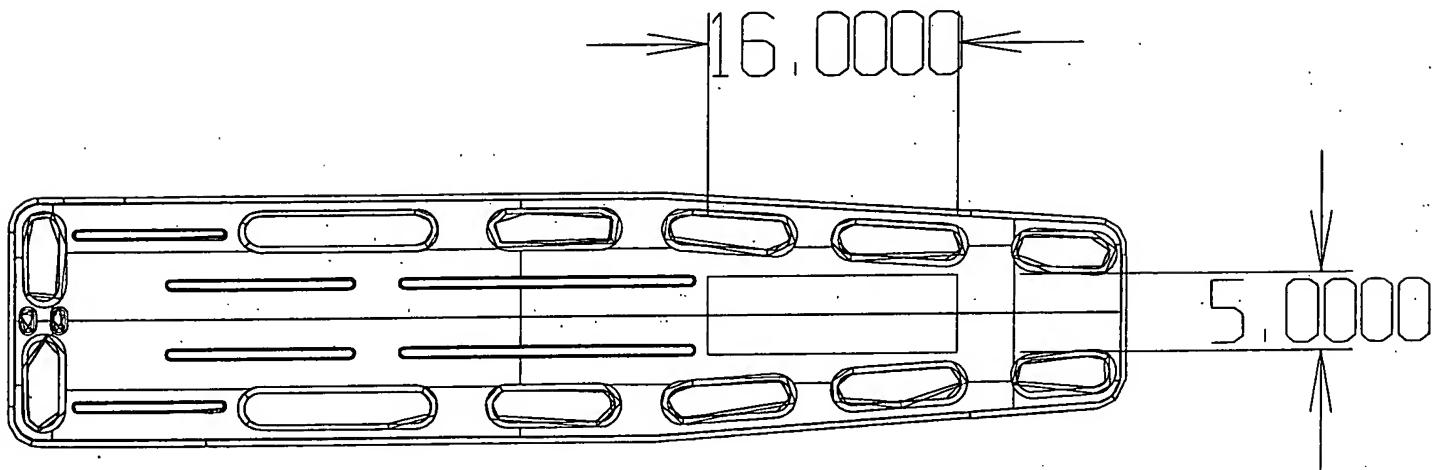
Side view

z  
x

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16 x 5"

LOGO SPACE for  
MAXx or Custom LOGO



y  
x

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## **APPENDIX E**

FILE WRAPPER FOR PROVISIONAL U.S. APPLICATION

NO: **60/380,715**

INVENTOR: **THOMAS A. RICHMOND**

FILING DATE: **MAY 15, 2002**

TITLE: **STRETCHER**

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\*RELATED U.S. APPLICATION DATA:

USSN 10/404,814 FILED APRIL 1, 2003  
US PATENT 6,715,170

PROVISIONAL APPLICATION NO. 60/380,715  
FILED MAY 15, 2002 **[CAPTIONED FILE]**

\*The related U.S. application data is drawn from the USPTO's public website and is not to be construed as a complete family of applications. Complete family information is available from the USPTO under 37 CFR 1.14.

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05/16/02

1-7000000000



60380715

AK(1)

AO.1

1.

2. PDA

7/19/02

3. PDA Notice 6/28/02

4. Request for access 6/10/04



## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
 UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)



Bib Data Sheet

CONFIRMATION NO. 6839

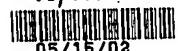
SERIAL NUMBER 60/380,715	FILING DATE 05/15/2002 RULE	CLASS	GROUP ART UNIT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. RAPI-0003
<b>APPLICANTS</b> Thomas A. Richmond, Richboro, PA;				
** CONTINUING DATA *****				
** FOREIGN APPLICATIONS *****				
IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED.** SMALL ENTITY ** ** 06/17/2002				
Foreign Priority claimed 35 USC 119 (a-d) conditions met	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> Met after Allowance	STATE OR COUNTRY PA	SHEETS DRAWING 5	TOTAL CLAIMS INDEPENDENT CLAIMS
<b>ADDRESS</b> Andrew J. Hagerty WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP One Liberty Place - 46th Floor Philadelphia ,PA 19103				
<b>TITLE</b> Stretcher				
FILING FEE RECEIVED 80	FEES: Authority has been given in Paper No. _____ to charge/credit DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. _____ for following:			<input type="checkbox"/> All Fees <input type="checkbox"/> 1.16 Fees ( Filing ) <input type="checkbox"/> 1.17 Fees ( Processing Ext. of time ) <input type="checkbox"/> 1.18 Fees ( Issue ) <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Credit

5-70800



60380715

J1040 U.S. PTO  
60/380715



05/15/02

AKD

Do

1.

2. PDF 7/19/02

3. PDF voice 8/30/02

4. Request for access 6/10/04

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05/15/02  
EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO.  
EL928558187US  
DATE OF DEPOSIT: May 15, 2002

S-16-02  
**PROVISIONAL APPLICATION COVER SHEET**

Request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION under 37 CFR 1.53(c).

A/Prel

EL928558187US	Docket Number: RAPI-0003	Type a plus sign (+) inside this box-	+
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**INVENTOR(S)/APPLICANT(S)**

GIVEN NAME (FIRST AND MIDDLE [IF ANY]) Thomas A.	FAMILY NAME OR SURNAME Richmond	RESIDENCE (CITY AND EITHER STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY) 7 Titus Avenue Richboro, Pennsylvania 18954.
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Additional inventors are being named on the \_\_\_\_\_ separately numbered sheets attached hereto

**TITLE OF THE INVENTION (280 characters max)**

STRETCHER

**CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS**

Attorney Name: Andrew J. Hagerty  
WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP  
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor  
Philadelphia PA 19103  
Telephone (215) 568-3100  
Facsimile (215) 568-3439

J140 U.S. PRO  
60/380715  
05/15/02

**ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS (check all that apply)**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification	Number of Pages <u>10</u>	<u>43</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	Number of Sheets <u>5</u>	Claims (optional)
Other (specify) _____		

**METHOD OF PAYMENT (check one)**

A check or money order is enclosed to cover the Provisional filing fee:  
 \$80.00 Small Entity  
 \$160.00 Large Entity

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge filing fee and credit Deposit Account Number: 23-3050

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account 23-3050 any fee deficiency or credit account for any overpayment.

This invention was made by an agency of the United States Government or under a contract with an agency of the United States Government.

No.

Yes, the name of the U.S. Government agency and the Government contract number are: \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted,

SIGNATURE 

TYPED OR PRINTED NAME Andrew J. Hagerty

Date: May 15, 2002

REGISTRATION NO. 44,141  
(if appropriate)

**PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FILING ONLY**

STRETCHER

## FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to portable stretchers, which are particularly suited  
5 for rescue situations. The stretchers are effective in transporting patients and/or rescuers  
in environments including water, ice and snow.

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION  
The present invention is directed to stretchers. In accordance with one preferred embodiment of the present invention, there has now been provided a stretcher including a cavity defined by a base and at least one wall extending upwardly from the periphery of the base. The cavity includes a pair of runners disposed on its lower surface. The cavity is formed having a double-wall configuration with filler material therebetween. The stretcher is floatable with a load of about 200 pounds residing in the cavity in the absence of retrofitted flotation aids.

15 In accordance with another preferred embodiment, there has now been provided a stretcher including a substantially rigid cavity for protecting a patient, wherein the cavity is defined by a base, longitudinal ends extending upwardly from the base, and sidewalls disposed between the longitudinal ends and extending upwardly the base. The sidewalls extend to a varying elevation along the lengths of the sidewalls.

20 In accordance with another preferred embodiment, there has now been provided a stretcher including a cavity defined by a base and at least one wall extending upwardly from the periphery of the base. A pair of runners is disposed on a lower surface of the cavity. The cavity wall includes opposing notches so that human limbs can be extended out of the cavity to maneuver the stretcher.

25 In accordance with another preferred embodiment, there has now been provided a stretcher including a cavity defined by a base and at least one wall extending upwardly from the periphery of said base. The cavity wall extends to a varying elevation along its length. The cavity is formed having a double-wall configuration with filler material

therebetween. The stretcher is floatable with a load of about 200 pounds residing in the cavity in the absence of retrofitted flotation aids.

These and various other features of novelty, and their respective advantages, are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed hereto and forming a part hereof.

5 However, for a better understanding of aspects of the invention, reference should be made to the drawings which form a further part hereof, and to the accompanying descriptive matter, in which there is illustrated preferred embodiments.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

10 Figure 1 is a top perspective view of a preferred stretcher embodiment provided by the present invention.

Figure 2 is a top perspective view of another preferred embodiment provided by the present invention.

15 Figure 3 is a top perspective view of a stretcher embodiment including optional drain ports.

Figure 4 is bottom perspective view of a stretcher embodiment including optional runners.

20 Figure 5 is a top perspective view of the stretcher embodiment as shown in Figure 4.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Referring now to the figures, wherein like features are indicated with like reference characters throughout, and in particular to Figure 1, a stretcher 10 is shown including a cavity 20 that is defined by a base 30, sidewalls 32, and longitudinal ends 33.

25 The stretcher embodiments shown in these figures have distinct wall portions joined at their ends, and the walls are substantially linear. As can be seen in Figure 2 however, other stretcher embodiments according to the present invention may include a single wall 31 (that is, not having distinct starting and ending points) positioned at the periphery of base 30 and extending upwardly therefrom. Figure 2 also illustrates that any wall or wall portion may include curvilinear regions.

Referring again to Figure 1, cavity 20 and base 30 are designed and configured to accept a patient and/or rescuer directly, or alternatively accept a patient positioned on an immobilization board. Cavity 20 is preferably substantially rigid so that a patient can be adequately protected during transportation.

5 In preferred stretcher embodiments, stretcher walls (wall 31 and sidewalls 32) extend to a varying elevation along their lengths, with low sections that permit a rescuer to extend their arms and/or legs out of cavity 20 to maneuver the stretcher, including propelling, braking and steering the stretcher during patient search and rescue. For example, in a water rescue, a rescuer can use the stretcher as a flotation aid and paddle  
10 out to a victim. Similarly, in an ice rescue, a rescuer can extend their arms or legs out to pick their way along the ice. Stretcher walls include regions with a relatively high elevation E1 and other regions with a relatively low elevation E2 (more than two different elevations may be employed). Elevation E1 is preferably from about 3 inches to about 18 inches. Elevation E2 is preferably from about 1 inch to about 10 inches.

15 The stretcher embodiments shown in the figures include notches 40 in the sidewalls to provide low sections. Although a single pair of opposing notches is suitable for effectively enabling a rescuer to maneuver the stretcher, two pairs of opposing notches 40 are preferred. When two pairs of opposing notches 40 are employed, a rescuers arms and legs can be extended out of the cavity. In addition, two pairs of  
20 opposing notches allow a rescuer to quickly grasp the stretcher without orientation concerns. For example, a rescuer could be positioned in either direction in the cavity and extend their arms out to paddle the stretcher through the water.

Sidewalls 32 and ends 33 are shown having an optional outwardly extending flange 41. Preferably, flange 41 is substantially parallel to base 30. In preferred  
25 embodiments, flange 41 includes at least one opening. As shown, flange 41 has multiple openings, including several hand holes 42 and strap holes 43. Strap holes 43 facilitate the attachment of restraining/securing straps, bridles and the like. Hand holes 42 and strap holes 43 may optionally contain speed pins 44, which provide quick-release coupling of a strap (or the like) via standard clips. Flange 41 may also include a seat for securing an  
30 oxygen bottle to the stretcher. A preferred bottle seat includes a concavity formed in a

portion of flange 41 and at least one coupling device to maintain the bottle's position within the concavity.

Referring to Figure 3, base 30 may optionally include at least one pluggable drain port 50. A plurality of spaced apart ports 50 is preferred. The pluggable drain ports enable stretchers of the present invention to be used for decontaminating a patient. For example, a patient exposed to hazardous material can be "washed" while lying in the stretcher. The runoff can then be safely contained by routing it out of the drain ports and into a hazardous material disposal container. Blood and other bodily fluids can likewise be appropriately handled via the ports when the stretcher is cleaned and sanitized post use. The drain ports may also be used for introducing materials into the cavity, such as, for example, heated air or medicaments.

Stretchers of the present invention may employ runners to provide enhanced maneuverability and tracking in water and snow use. The runners can be manufactured independently and then attached to the stretcher, or integrally formed with the stretcher cavity. As can be seen in Figure 4, two runners 60 extend from a bottom surface of cavity 20. In addition to the runners, the bottom surface of base 30 and ends 33 can be angled or shaped to promote the ability of the stretcher to plow through water or snow.

The stretcher cavity can be manufactured from many different materials, including but not limited to, polymers, metals, composites, foams, fiberglass, wood, KEVLAR, coated paperboard, and combinations thereof. Preferably, the stretcher is made from a material comprising a polymer, such as, for example high-density polyethylene. Any known techniques for forming three-dimensional structures from the list of materials above can be employed for manufacturing the stretcher components.

In preferred embodiments, the cavity is injection molded or rotational molded. Utilizing a rotational molding technique can yield a hollow double-wall configuration. Filler material may be disposed in the middle of such a configuration to impart added strength, and insulation and flotation properties. A representative, non-limiting list of filler material includes air, foam, natural and synthetic fibers, and wood products. Preferably, the filler material is a liquid foam, such as catalyzed urethane foam, that is injected into the double-wall configuration with techniques such as reaction injection molding.

Design features, materials, and manufacturing techniques as described above may be selectively combined to provide various beneficial properties, such as, for example, x-ray translucency and floatation. Stretchers of the present invention are preferably floatable, more preferably floatable with a load of about 200 pounds residing in the cavity, and most preferably floatable containing a load of up to about 350 pounds, all in the absence of retrofitted (additional) flotation aids.

NOTES/STUDIOS

It is to be understood that even though numerous characteristics and advantages of the present invention have been set forth in the foregoing description, together with details of the structure, manufacture of, and function of the invention, the disclosure is illustrative only. Accordingly, changes may be made in detail, especially in matters of shape, size and arrangement of structural features, as well as, sequences of manufacturing steps, within the principles of the invention to the full extent indicated by the broad general meaning of the terms in which the appended claims are expressed.

What is claimed is:

1. A stretcher comprising:
  - 5 a cavity defined by a base and at least one wall extending upwardly from the periphery of said base; and
    - a pair of runners disposed on a lower surface of said cavity;wherein said cavity is formed having a double-wall configuration with filler material therebetween, so that the stretcher is floatable with a load of about 200 pounds
  - 10 residing in said cavity in the absence of retrofitted flotation aids.
2. The stretcher of claim 1, wherein said cavity and said pair of runners are integrally formed.
- 15 3. The stretcher of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said at least one wall includes an outwardly extending flange that is substantially parallel to said base.
- 20 4. The stretcher of claim 3, wherein said flange includes an opening.
  5. The stretcher of claim 4, wherein said opening is a hand hole.
  6. The stretcher of claim 4, wherein said opening includes a pin for attaching a bridle or a securing strap to the stretcher.
- 25 7. The stretcher of claim 3, wherein said flange includes a bottle seat.
8. The stretcher of claim 1, wherein said base includes at least one pluggable drain port extending from a base upper surface to a base lower surface.
- 30 9. The stretcher of claim 1, wherein said cavity is formed by a manufacturing method including rotational molding.

10. The stretcher of claim 1, wherein said cavity is formed from a material including a polymer.
- 5 11. The stretcher of claim 10, wherein said polymer includes a high-density polyethylene.
12. The stretcher of claim 1, wherein said filler material includes foam.
- 10 13. The stretcher of claim 1, wherein said cavity is sized and configured to accept an immobilization board.
14. The stretcher of claim 1, wherein said cavity is x-ray translucent.
- 15 15. The stretcher of claim 1, wherein said at least one wall includes two sidewalls positioned between two opposing ends.
16. The stretcher of claim 15, wherein each of said two sidewalls includes a region of relatively low elevation so that a human limb can be extended out of said cavity to maneuver the stretcher.
- 20 17. A stretcher comprising:  
a substantially rigid cavity for protecting a patient, the cavity defined by a base, longitudinal ends extending upwardly from said base, and sidewalls disposed between said longitudinal ends and extending upwardly from said base;  
wherein said sidewalls extend to a varying elevation along the lengths of said sidewalls.
- 25 18. The stretcher of claim 17, further comprising a pair of runners disposed on a lower surface of said cavity.

19. The stretcher of claim 17, wherein at least one of said sidewalls and said longitudinal ends include an outwardly extending flange that is substantially parallel to said base.

5 20. The stretcher of claim 19, wherein said flange includes an opening for accepting a lifting or securing device.

21. The stretcher of claim 19, wherein said flange includes a bottle seat.

10 22. The stretcher of claim 17, wherein said base includes at least one pluggable drain port extending from a base upper surface to a base lower surface.

15 23. The stretcher of claim 17, wherein said cavity is formed by a manufacturing method including rotational molding.

24. The stretcher of claim 17, wherein said cavity is formed having a double-wall configuration with filler material therebetween.

20 25. The stretcher of claim 24, wherein said filler material includes foam.

26. The stretcher of claim 17, wherein said cavity is formed from a material including a polymer.

25 27. The stretcher of claim 26, wherein said polymer includes a high-density polyethylene.

28. The stretcher of claim 17, wherein said cavity is sized and configured to accept an immobilization board.

30 28. The stretcher of claim 17, wherein said cavity is x-ray translucent.

29. The stretcher of claim 17, wherein each of said sidewalls include a notch so that human limbs can be extended out of said cavity to maneuver the stretcher.

30. The stretcher of claim 28, wherein each of said sidewalls includes a second notch.

5

31. A stretcher comprising:

a cavity defined by a base and at least one wall extending upwardly from the periphery of said base; and

a pair of runners disposed on a lower surface of said cavity;

wherein said at least one wall includes opposing notches so that human limbs can be extended out of said cavity to maneuver the stretcher.

10

32. The stretcher of claim 31, wherein at least a portion of said at least one wall includes an outwardly extending flange that is substantially parallel to said base.

15

33. The stretcher of claim 32, wherein said flange includes an opening for accepting a lifting or securing device.

20

34. The stretcher of claim 32, wherein said flange includes a bottle seat.

25

35. The stretcher of claim 31, wherein said base includes at least one pluggable drain port extending from a base upper surface to a base lower surface.

36. The stretcher of claim 31, wherein said cavity is formed by a manufacturing method including rotational molding.

25

37. The stretcher of claim 31, wherein said cavity is formed having a double-wall configuration with filler material therebetween.

30

38. The stretcher of claim 37, wherein said fill materials includes foam.

DOCKET NUMBER  
STRETCHER

39. The stretcher of claim 31, wherein said cavity is formed from a material including a polymer.

40. The stretcher of claim 39, wherein said polymer includes a high-density  
5 polyethylene.

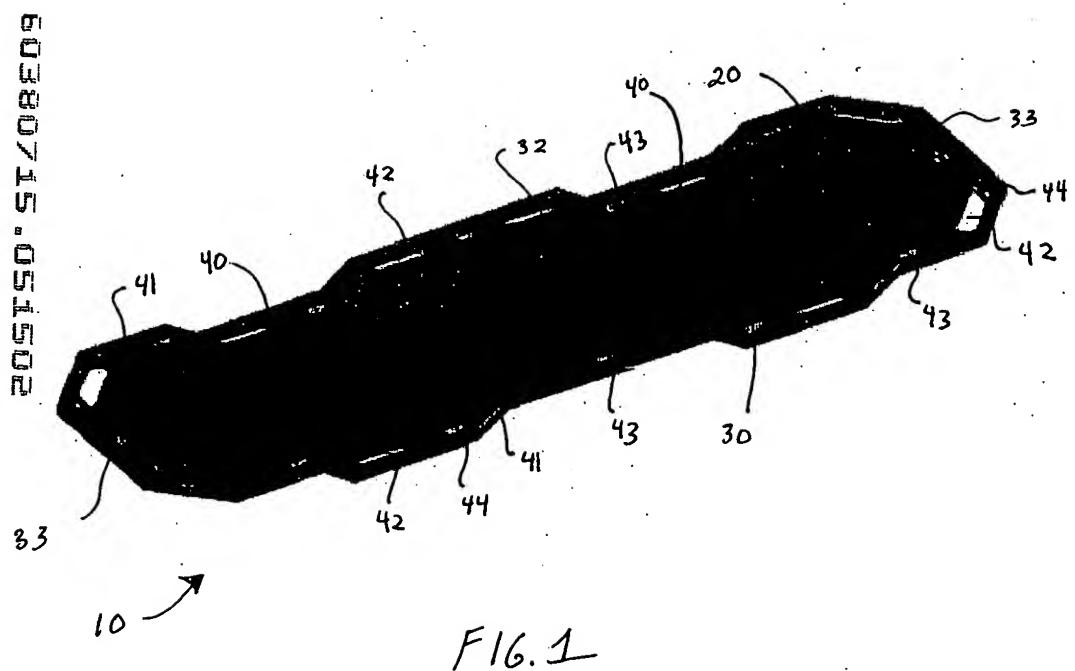
41. The stretcher of claim 31, wherein said cavity is sized and configured to accept an immobilization board.

10 42. A stretcher comprising:  
11 a cavity defined by a base and at least one wall extending upwardly from the periphery of said base;  
12 wherein said at least one wall extends to a varying elevation along its length, and  
13 wherein said cavity is formed having a double-wall configuration with filler  
14 material therebetween, so that the stretcher is floatable with a load of about 200 pounds  
15 residing in said cavity in the absence of retrofitted flotation aids.  
16  
17 43. The stretcher of claim 42 being floatable with a load up to about 350 pounds  
18 residing in said cavity in the absence of flotation aids.

20

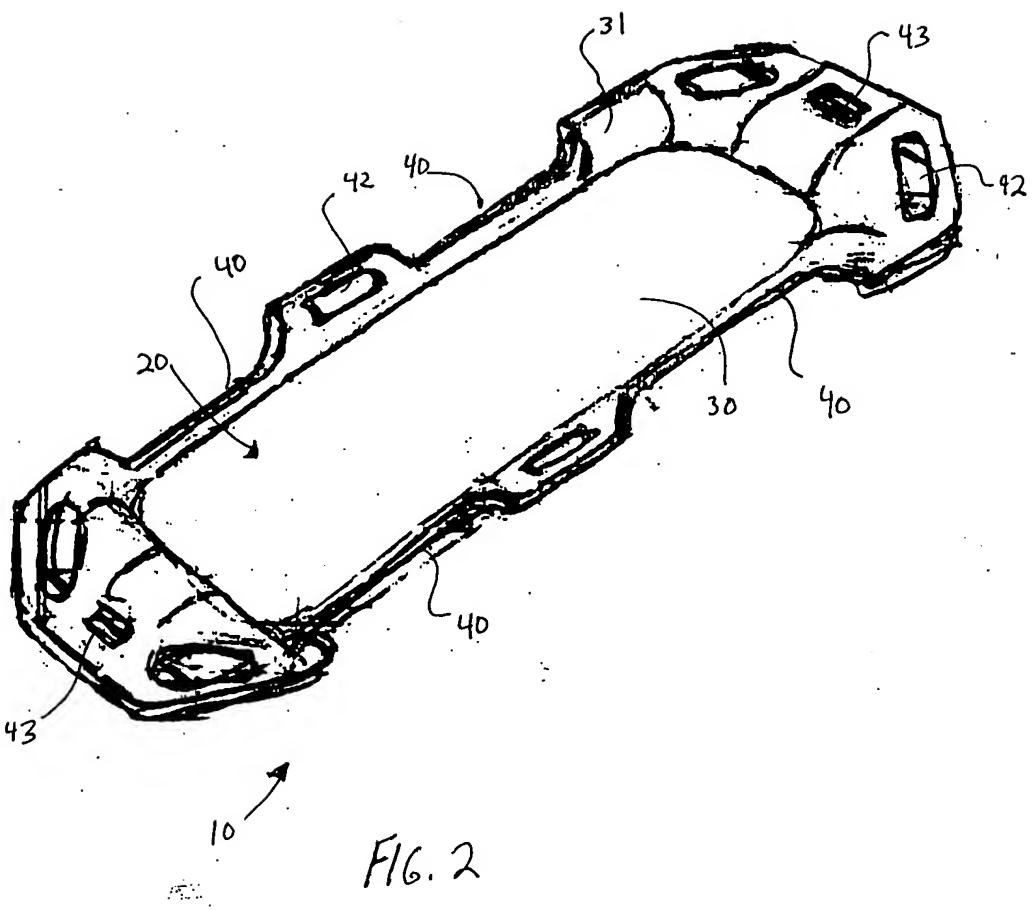
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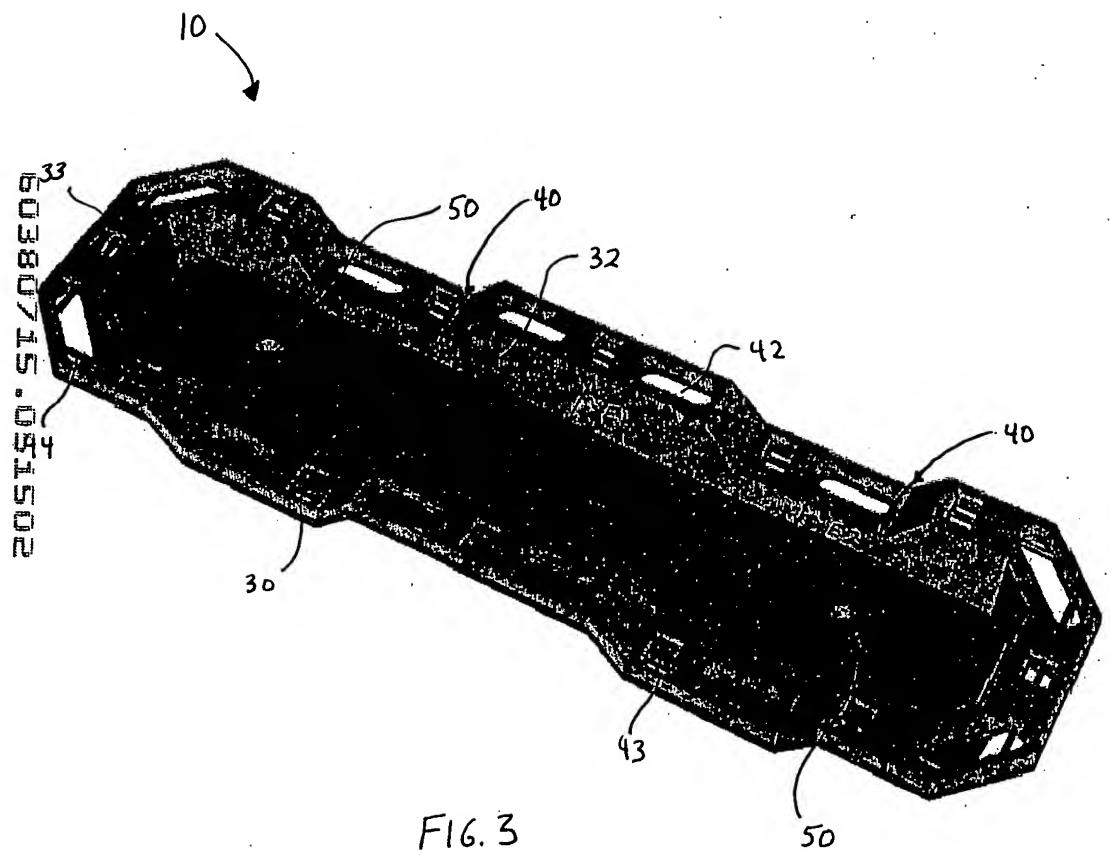


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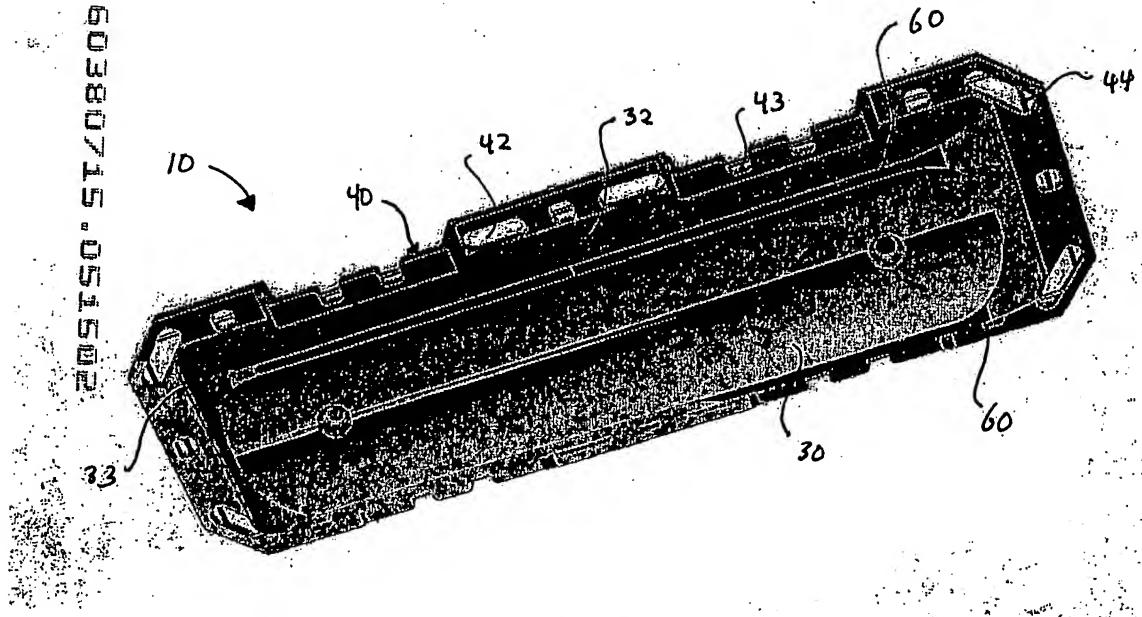
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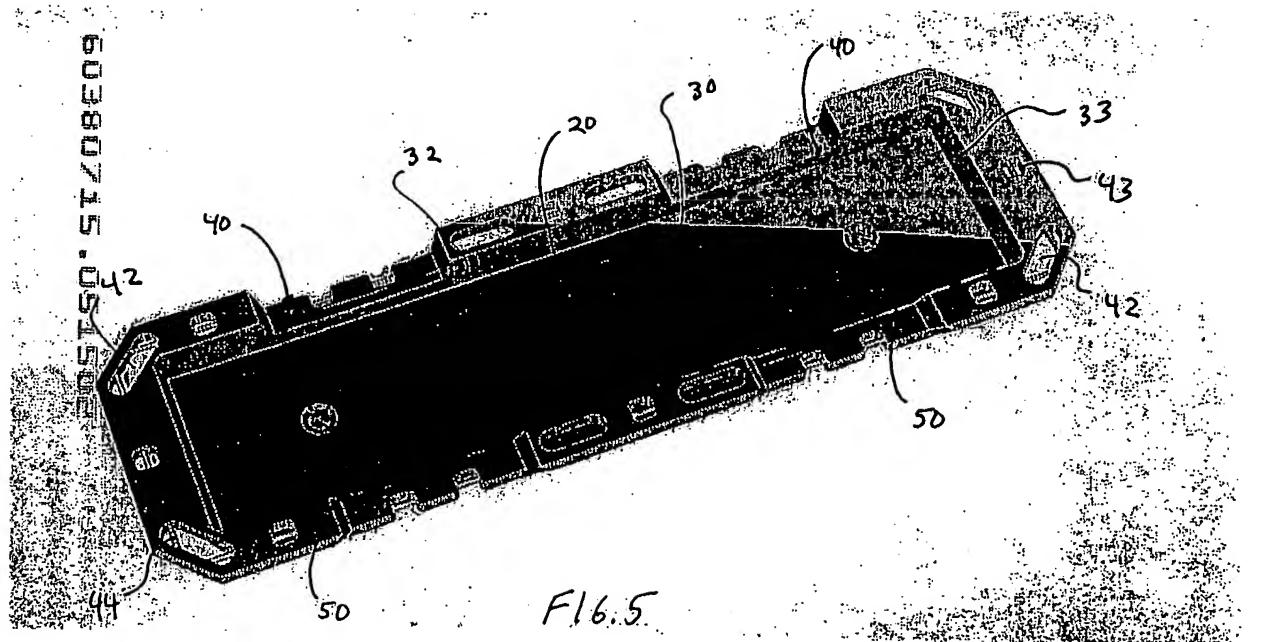


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98201  
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:  
THOMAS A. RICHMOND

Serial No. 60/380,715

Filed: May 15, 2002

For: STRETCHER

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BOX PROVISIONAL PATENT APPLICATION

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- 2 -

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Date: 6-20-02

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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO./TITLE
60/380,715	05/15/2002	Thomas A. Richmond	RAPI-0003

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CONFIRMATION NO. 6839



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Date Mailed: 09/30/2002

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This is in response to the Power of Attorney filed 07/19/2002.

The Power of Attorney in this application is accepted. Correspondence in this application will be mailed to the above address as provided by 37 CFR 1.33.

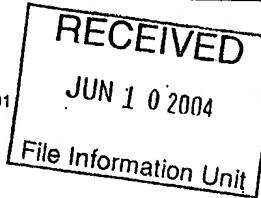
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In re Application of  
Application Number **60/1380,715** Filed **05-15-02**  
Paper No. **474**

I hereby request access under 37 CFR 1.14(a)(1)(iv) to the application file record of the above-identified ABANDONED application, which is identified in, or to which a benefit is claimed, in the following document (as shown in the attachment):

United States Patent Application Publication No. \_\_\_\_\_ page, \_\_\_\_\_ line \_\_\_\_\_

United States Patent Number **US 6,715,170 B2** column \_\_\_\_\_, line, \_\_\_\_\_ or

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US006715170B2

(12) United States Patent  
Richmond

(10) Patent No.: US 6,715,170 B2  
(45) Date of Patent: Apr. 6, 2004

## (54) STRETCHER

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(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this  
patent is extended or adjusted under 35  
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: 10/404,814

(22) Filed: Apr. 1, 2003

## (65) Prior Publication Data

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2002

(51) Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> ..... A61G 1/00

(52) U.S. Cl. ..... 5/625; 5/626; 5/628; 128/870;  
441/129

(58) Field of Search ..... 5/625, 626, 628;  
441/83, 125, 129; 128/870

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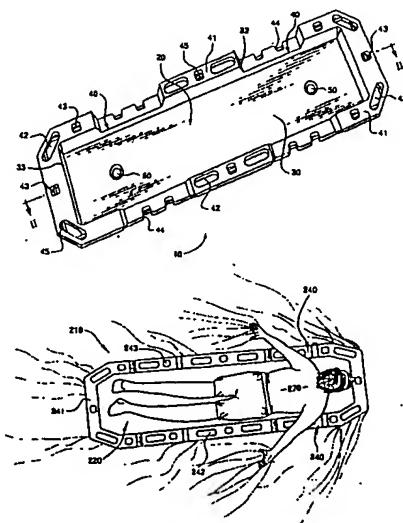
Primary Examiner—Michael R. Trettel

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## (57) ABSTRACT

A stretcher including a substantially rigid cavity defined by  
a base, opposing ends extending upwardly from the base,  
and opposing sidewalls disposed between the opposing ends  
and extending upwardly from the base. Each of the opposing  
sidewalls includes at least one low section so that a human  
limb can be extended out of the cavity to maneuver the  
stretcher.

30 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets



PATENT APPLICATION SERIAL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
Fee Record Sheet

05/20/2002 ZJUHARI 00000021 60380715  
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PTO-1556  
(5/87)